



James Knoll Gardner

Born: September 14, 1940, in Allentown, Pennsylvania

Died: April 26, 2017, in Emmaus, Pennsylvania

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Nominated by George W. Bush on April 22, 2002, to a seat vacated by Jan E. DuBois.

Confirmed by the Senate on October 2, 2002, and received commission on October 3, 2002.

Assumed senior status on April 3, 2017.

Service terminated on April 26, 2017, due to death.

Education:

Yale University, B.A., 1962

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1965

Professional Career:

U.S. Navy Law Specialist: 1966-1967

U.S. Navy, JAG Corps: 1967-1969

U.S. Naval Reserve, JAG Corps: 1969-1993

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1965-1966; 1969-1970

Private Practice: Allentown, Pennsylvania: 1970-1981

Solicitor, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office: 1971-1977

Assistant District Attorney, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania: 1972-1981; First Assistant District Attorney: 1977-1981

Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania: 1981-2002

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Judicial Biography

Judge Gardner graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Yale University in 1962 with a B.A. in American Studies Honors program, and Harvard Law School in 1965 with a Juris Doctorate. From 1965 to 1966 and 1969 to 1970, he was an associate with the law firm of Duane, Morris & Heckscher, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a litigator, and from 1970 to 1981 he was a partner with his father and sister, Audrey Racines, in Gardner, Gardner & Racines, engaged in general practice. He served as First Assistant District Attorney of Lehigh County from 1977 to 1981 and was an Assistant District Attorney from 1972 to 1977.

In 1980, Judge Gardner was appointed by former Pennsylvania Governor Richard L. Thornburgh to the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County. He was elected to a ten year term in the General Election in 1981, and was retained for an additional ten year term in 1991. From 1997 to 2002, Judge Gardner served a five-year term as President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County and served a term as the President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges from 1996 to 1997.

In 2002, President George W. Bush appointed Judge Gardner to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; he was confirmed by the Senate and received his commission on October 3, 2002.

He served on active duty as an officer in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1966 to 1969 and as a reservist for 24 years from 1969 to 1993, where he advanced to the rank of Captain and served as an Appellate Military Judge on the United States Navy-Marine Corps Court of Military Review in Washington, D.C. As a Military Judge, Captain Gardner presided over 77 active duty military courts-martial. Of his many accolades and awards, he received the Meritorious Service Medal from the President of the United States "for outstanding meritorious service as a Military Judge while serving with the Naval Reserve Trial Judiciary from October 1985 to October 1991;" and the Navy Commendation Medal of Heroism. An avid Boy Scout, he received the highest honor granted within the Boy Scouts Association of America, the distinguished Eagle Scout Award. In his youth as a boy Scout, he attended the International Jubilee Jamboree in Sutton-Goldfield, England in 1957, where he played the clarinet with the United States Boy Scouts of America Band, for the Queen of England.

He was involved with the Allentown Symphony, of which he was an active member of the Board of Directors for 29 years, carrying on the legacy of his late parents, the Honorable Theodore R. Gardner and Margaret K. Gardner, who were founding members. Other boards that he was actively involved with throughout his lifetime, included the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown; the Police Athletic League; the 15th Congressional District Military Academy Selection Board; Board of Associates for Muhlenberg College; Minsi Trails Council; and the Yale Alumni Schools Committee.

Judge Gardner assumed senior status on April 3, 2017, and died in Emmaus, Pennsylvania on April 26, 2017 at the age of 76.

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Biographical Materials

1. Memorial Service for Judge James Knoll Gardner, Remarks by Honorable Henry S. Perkin (Ret.), May 2, 2017.
2. Bar Association of Lehigh County – Bar Memorial, Remarks by Michael S. Daigle, Esquire, February 12, 2018.
3. Program from Special Session of the Court – Portrait Unveiling and Memorial Service for the Honorable James Knoll Gardner, May 11, 2018.
4. Transcript of Special Session of the Court for a Portrait Unveiling and Memorial Concerning the Late Honorable James Knoll Gardner on May 11, 2018.